

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02996 261907Z

71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /072 W

----- 021930

R 261528Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 515

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, UR

SUBJECT: REPORT OF SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES OUTSIDE URBAN AREAS

1. SOVIET ACQUAINTENANCE COMMENTED TO EMBASSY WIFE TODAY THAT SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES HAVE DEVELOPED IN RURAL AREAS, THAT THIS IS WIDELY KNOWN IN MOSCOW BECAUSE OF APPEALS FROM RELATIVES AND ACQUAINTANCES, AND THAT GRUMBLING IS NOW WIDESPREAD BECAUSE PROBLEM DOES NOT SEEM TO BE RECEIVING ATTENTION AT PARTY CONGRESS.
2. THESE COMMENTS WERE INITIATED BY DESCRIBING A TRIP THE SOURCE HAD MADE TO VISIT RELATIVES AT AN UNSPECIFIED LOCATION 160 KILOMETERS FROM MOSCOW. THE RELATIVES (SCHOOLTEACHERS, NOT FARMERS) HAD TELEPHONED LAST WEEK TO REPORT THAT THEY COULD NOT OBTAIN ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF BREAD, MEAT AND MILK LOCALLY, AND ASKING IF FOOD COULD BE BOUGHT OR SENT FROM MOSCOW. SOURCE AND HUSBAND BOUGHT STOCK OF SUPPLIES (READILY AVAILABLE IN MOSCOW) AND DROVE TO TOWN OVER WEEKEND TO DELIVER THEM.
3. SOURCE WENT ON TO SAY THAT CONDITIONS OF SHORTAGE SEEM TO EXIST WIDELY IN NON-URBAN AREAS, AND IS NOW A MAIN SUBJECT OF CASUAL CONVERSATION IN MOSCOW, ESPECIALLY ON SUBWAY TRAINS AND BUSES. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE GRUMBLING, SHE SAID, THAT PROBLEM IS APPARENTLY RECEIVING NO ATTENTION IN SPEECHES AT PARTY CONGRESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02996 261907Z

4. WHEN EMBASSY WIFE COMMENTED THAT SHE HAD NOTICED NO ABNORMAL

SHORTAGES, SOURCE REMARKED THAT MOSCOW AND OTHER LARGE CITIES ARE ALWAYS BETTER SUPPLIED THAN SMALLER TOWNS, AND THAT SUPPLIES OF EVERYTHING IN MOSCOW COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE PARTICULARLY ABUNDANT DURING PARTY CONGRESS. SHE ADDED THAT FOREIGNERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO GLIMPSE REAL SITUATION ON COUNTRY AS A WHOLE SINCE THEY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO VISIT AREAS EXPERIENCING SHORTAGES. SHE CONCLUDED BY REMARKING, "SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN CATHERINE'S VISIT TO THE CRIMEA. WE HAVE LONG TRADITIONS."

5. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST DIRECT REPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED OF SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES, AND IT OF COURSE IS NOT RPT NOT SUBSTANTIATED BY OBSERVATIONS OF EMBASSY TRAVELLERS TO THOSE CITIES VISITED IN LAST FEW WEEKS. WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO DISCOUNT REPORT, HOWEVER, SINCE CITIES WOULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE MORE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES THAN SMALL TOWNS, AND SOURCE IS PROBABLY CORRECT IN REMARKING THAT FOREIGNERS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO AREAS WHERE SERIOUS SHORTAGES EXIST.

STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD SHORTAGE, RURAL AREAS, PARTY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW02996
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760073-0591
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760210/aaaaaifb.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT OF SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES OUTSIDE URBAN AREAS
TAGS: EAGR, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006